

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-19, 21 and 31-37 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 12-14, and 31. In the Office Action, claims 6-9, 11-13, 21, 33, 34, 36 and 37 were indicated as being allowable.

The remaining claims, however, were rejected solely in view of Green or Green in combination with Arnold or Green in view of various statements made in the present specification. As now amended, however, it is believed that all of the claims patentably define over Green either alone or in combination with the other references.

Green is directed to lubricious gloves that include a modified elastomeric glove body covered by a lubricious coating made of polyvinyl alcohol and a thickening agent. The thickening agent is a rhamsan gum. As stated in Green, the purpose of the glove is to be worn during the formation of orthopaedic casting bandages. The polyvinyl chloride coating is present so that the glove does not stick to tacky urethane prepolymer coated tapes, especially when wet.

In the examples, Green discloses various formulations for an outside coating on the elastomeric glove. The outside coating can include polyvinyl alcohol, rhamsan gum, glutaraldehyde, glycerin, a surfactant, acetate, and silica particles. All of these ingredients are mixed into a dispersion. The glove being formed is then dipped into the dispersion.

As opposed to the gloves disclosed in Green, however, claims 1, 14 and 31 all require that the silica particles be **“partially embedded”** in the outside surface of the elastomeric article. In contrast, Green does not disclose or suggest that the silica is in any way partially embedded in the outside surface.

As stated in the present application, in one embodiment, the particles are contained in a coagulant solution and applied to a former prior to dipping the former into an elastomeric material. In this manner, the particles become partially embedded in the outside surface of the glove when the glove is removed from the former. In Green, on the other hand, the silica particles are mixed into the coating formulation and then applied to the glove. Through this process, it is doubtful that the particles become

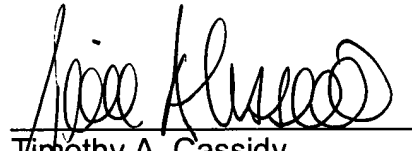
partially embedded in the outside surface of the resulting glove product. Thus, since Green fails to disclose or suggest partially embedding the silica particles in the outside surface of the elastomeric article, it is believed that claims 1, 14 and 31 patentably define over Green either alone or in combination with the other cited references.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims patentably define over all of the prior art of record. It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Rayford is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this response.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,

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